The Disclaimer

We are not trying to provide three hours of seminar training in one small brochure, and we strongly encourage everyone to attend a formal self-defense seminar in your area if you can, but we hope these tips may help you in the mean time.

The best form of self-defense is getting involved. Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood or when you're out and about. Be a part of your neighborhood watch, or be the genesis of one in your area. Be a good neighbor to the elderly on your street or in your building. All of these things develop a caring and compassionate community that will respond effectively in a crisis....all things that opportunistic criminals want to avoid.

The tips and techniques we present are far from exhaustive, may have more suitable alternatives for your particular circumstances, and may not apply in your "neck of the woods." Use them as a guide to start you thinking along safety and security lines without getting overly paranoid.

Let us know if you think we should add, or amend, any of the included tips.

Community Patrol USA

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the techniques and information provided and discussed in this document. At the time of printing and presentation this document the materials are, to the best of our knowledge accurate however anomalies, omissions, and factual errors may exist. This document may be modified at any time without prior notice either in part of in full.

Community Patrol USA is a not-for profit group run entirely by unpaid volunteers who have a focus and commitment to enhancing and improving the safety and security of the communities they live and work in.

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Community Patrol USA

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EZ-DEFENSE

Internet Safety For Kids & teens

Share with family, friends and colleagues to help keep everyone a little safer.

SAFETY IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Internet Safety For Kids & Teens

Understanding the potential threats inherent in an on-line presence is vital to keeping yourself, and your children and teenagers safe.

The FBI estimates there may be as many as 50,000 predators on line at any given moment. On-line does not merely mean when you or your children are sitting in front of a computer as smart phones, i-pads and other devices provide the on-line experience in many different forms.

Predation can take many forms, from bullying to sexually inappropriate material. Just as many adults are susceptible to the friendships and "special offer" temptations of the internet, children are often more at risk as they are often more trusting and less suspicious of motives.

In a 2003 Department of Justice report:

- 1 in 7 kids, 10-17 years old, were sexually solicited on-line.

- 70% of those solicitations happened on a home computer with the remainder occurring at a friend's home. Mobile devices may have changed this pattern significantly.

- 49% of kids surveyed did not tell anyone about being solicited on-line. The main reason they provided for not telling was fear their computer access would be removed or restricted by parents.

Talk with your kids and teens about internet safety and the dangers that exist on-line. Encourage them to tell you about anything that makes them uncomfortable or makes them uneasy. Reassure them it is not their fault if they are solicited, find a site that upsets them or if they are bullied on-line.

Remind them that, just as school, college, and everyday life around them has good people, bad people, friends and those not so friendly, cool things they're interested in and bad things they should avoid; the internet is exactly the same. They need to use caution and care to avoid being hurt or running into trouble.

Be an ally to your kids and teens in their progressive learning about the internet, web sites and social media. Make sure you know what applications they are using, who they are chatting with and how often.

Discuss ahead of time some of the dangers or uncomfortable things they may see or experience, and come up with a plan together to allow your kid or teen to bring such things up with you if they happen.

Be sure to report all instances of on-line bullying, sexual solicitation, inappropriate comments or suggestions, and fraud activity to police. Your report will help police to build a better picture of what is happening and perhaps identify and arrest those responsible. It may also help keep other kids and teens safe if police believe they should publicize the threat.

There are many excellent resources and organizations working in this specific area, so rather than replicate their great work, we'll simply suggest some referrals and further reading for you.

http://childrescuenetwork.org/keeping-children-safe/internet-safety/

http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internetsafetyforkids

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/internet-safety-tips-for-elementary-school-kids

http://www.netsmartz.org/internetsafety

http://www.kidpower.org/

http://www.teachaid.org/internet_safety/

http://www.netliteracy.org/safe-connects/collateral-material/

http://www.safechild.org/new/

http://kidsonline.com/

If you find a broken link, or know of a web site we should recommend in the list above, please contact us.